

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 27, 2014

Ms. Kelly Flenniken, Executive Director  
Grand Junction Economic Partnership  
122 North 6th Street  
Grand Junction, CO 81501

Dear Ms. Flenniken,

Colorado is leading our nation in its pursuit of energy security by advancing renewables like solar, alongside traditional fuel sources, like clean natural gas. One of the largest natural gas producing regions in the United States is western Colorado, where there is significant potential to expand capacity for production. The responsible development of clean-burning natural gas and other fossil fuels as we increasingly embrace renewable technologies is essential as we move forward. Responsible natural gas development can benefit the environment, grow our economy and advance relations with strategic international partners.

The investigative work that the Grand Junction Economic Partnership (GJEP) is undertaking regarding the potential impacts of liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports is timely and vital for responsible development. Increased global demand for natural gas produced in the United States will have positive economic domestic and international impacts. An international market for LNG exports would potentially help create sustained benefits and market stability in regions that experience the ebbs and flows of natural gas production. In addition, our international partners can curtail their demand for natural gas from other nations that may not be aligned with our national interests. The proposed study by GJEP intends to provide critical information to the public regarding the potential impacts of LNG exports to the economies of western Colorado.

I appreciate the attention GJEP has already given this important topic and look forward to the results of the study. I will continue working to ensure that the U.S. Department of Energy fashions a strategy regarding permit approval for LNG export facilities that is beneficial to Colorado, our economy, our environment and our nation.

Again, I appreciate your study of this important issue and encourage your ongoing efforts.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Udall  
U.S. Senator